

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

To place the subject application in better form, the specification has been amended to correct minor informalities. Also, a new abstract is presented in accordance with preferred practice. Further, by separate paper, Applicant also requests approval to label Figures 7 and 8 as "PRIOR ART." No new matter has been added by these changes.

Claims 16-25 are presented for consideration in lieu of claims 1-15, which have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 16 is the sole independent claim. Support for these claims can be found in the original application, as filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action.

The Examiner objected to the drawings on formal grounds. Specifically, the Examiner requested that Figures 5-8 be labeled as "PRIOR ART." To expedite prosecution, by separate paper, Applicant requests approval to label Figures 7 and 8 as -- PRIOR ART --, as requested by the Examiner. The Examiner will note, however, that Applicant has not requested that Figures 5 and 6 be so labeled, because these figures are related to the present invention, as discussed on page 16, line 24, to page 27, line 5.

The Examiner objected to the disclosure due to a minor informality on page 17. To expedite prosecution, Applicant has corrected this error in this response.

Turning now to art rejection, claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Applicant's background statement on pages 2-7 of the subject specification, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,876,012 to Haga et al. Applicant submits that the cited art, whether taken individually or in combination, does not teach many features of the present invention as previously recited in claims 1-15. Therefore, this rejection is respectfully traversed. Nevertheless, Applicant submits that claims 16-25, as presented, amplify the distinctions between the present invention and the cited art.

Independent claim 16 recites an anti-vibration apparatus that includes a table, a pneumatic spring for applying a force to the table, an electromagnetic actuator for applying a force to the table, and a first generator which generates a driving signal for the electromagnetic actuator based on at least one of a target position and a target speed with respect to a movable object on the table.

Applicant submits that the cited art does not teach or suggest such features of the present invention, as recited in independent claim 16.

The Examiner relies on Applicant's background statement for teaching a conventional active anti-vibration apparatus. Applicant submits, however, that that discussion does not teach or suggest the salient features of Applicant's present invention, as recited in independent claim 16, including the arrangement of the table, the pneumatic spring, the electromagnetic actuator and the generator.

Applicant further submits that the remaining art cited does not cure the deficiencies noted above with respect to Applicant's background statement.

The Haga et al. discloses an arrangement that includes an electromagnetic actuator for applying a force to a table. Applicant submits, however, that the actuator in the Haga et al. patent is controlled based on a displacement sensor signal and an acceleration sensor signal, instead of at least one of a target position and a target speed with respect to a movable object on a table, as in the present invention recited in independent claim 16. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the Haga et al. patent adds nothing to the teachings of Applicant's background statement that would render obvious Applicant's present invention as recited in independent claim 16.

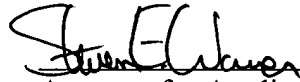
For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the present invention, as recited in independent claim 16, is patentably defined over the cited art.

Dependent claims 17-25 also should be deemed allowable, in their own right, for defining other patentable features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Further individual consideration of these dependent claims is requested.

Applicant further submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objection and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Steven E. Warner", is written over a horizontal line.

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